

Shelton State Courier

"Building Our Sense of Community"

—Campus Newspaper—

New Series Vol. 5, Number 2

Shelton State Community College

Feb. 12, 2001- Feb. 22, 2001

Let's get serious

Shelton theatre students and faculty take a chance on
And they Dance Real Slow in Jackson



Shelton theatre students and cast members (L-R) Allison Wilkes, Herb Robertson, Stephanie Harris and Micheal Sullivan rehearse a fiery scene from the department production of *And they Dance Real Slow in Jackson*

By Michael Spencer

As students and faculty of Shelton State Community College, we are all involved in something very important. We are all a part of the official Alabama Junior College of the Fine Arts. The state of Alabama awarded this honor. Shelton houses the state-of-the-art theatrical fa-

cility, the Bean-Brown Theatre. It is the home of Theatre Tuscaloosa, and its own theatre department has presented several successful shows such as *Damn Yankees*, *The Crucible* and *Bus Stop*.

Immaculate facilities and organizations aren't the only thing that sets Shelton apart from other schools. The really impressive thing about Shelton's art program is the amount of student

involvement from the ground up.

Stephanie Harris, cast in the upcoming production of *They Danced Real Slow in Jackson*, was asked why she chose Shelton to study theatre. She said simply, "Because Shelton has a great theatre program." Mary Kathryn Perkins, a highly reputed student singer and actor and publicity director for the upcoming show, also said, "There is no doubt Shelton is the best fine arts junior college in the South."

The Shelton Theatre department has been very successful with its work — the productions shown in the past, but the plays have typically been well-known shows that are recognizable by even the most novice theatre patron. With the obscure and very serious *And They Dance*

Work Keys can open the door to success for tech students

By Eric Sherman

A new program offered at Shelton State titled "Work Keys" is a step forward in developing a world-class work force in West Alabama, according to Dean of Student Humphrey Lee and program coordinator Johnny Parker. The program is geared toward helping students interested in technical careers.

The Work Keys program is offered through ACT, Inc. and tests three general skill areas: communication, problem solving, and interpersonal skills. The Work Keys program tests students and helps them understand how prepared they are for industry specific jobs. In many ways similar to the ACT College entrance exam, this one also helps students determine if they are ready for academic study.

One of the benefits of Work Keys is that it takes out the guesswork in the hiring and promotion of employees. "Out of 50 applicants for a job opening, maybe four or five have the skills for the job. Through testing and targeted instruction, Work Keys takes out the guesswork for the employer and finds the qualified applicants for the job," said Johnny Parker, Shelton's ACT job profiler.

Over 50 years ago 60 percent of the workforce was made-up of unskilled labor; today the workforce is made up of only 15 percent of unskilled labor, Parker said. "The biggest problem in filling jobs is finding skilled applicants. There are plenty of jobs out there for people who have the skills."

All two-year colleges in the state will develop a Work Keys program. Shelton has been designated as

Sheltoniana Which Can Be Found Nowhere Else

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Look for the sales, discount coupons, and special notices in the Courier's ads

These companies are our special friends. Let's support them!

For advertising information call the publisher at 391-2278

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T-town doesn't seem ready for Critical Mass

By Victor Burlingame

The South will never accept mass transit like the North. This is something I have had to face since moving to Alabama roughly 10 years ago. Another reality I have had to face is that Southerners are not very bicycle-friendly. This was never more evident than just a few weeks ago.

I ride with a group of students once a month in a little parade we like to call "Critical Mass." Critical Mass is a demonstration we put on to illustrate the need for bike lanes in Tuscaloosa.

Our version is loosely based on the infamous Critical Mass rides that originated in San Francisco, minus the riots. Basically what we do is ride in large groups, two abreast, through downtown Tuscaloosa and around the University's campus. This is what the law requires us to do.

Bicyclist are to follow all the same laws as motorized vehicles.

The problem here is that we are obviously much slower. Traffic tends to back up behind the parade of cyclists as motorists become more enraged.

The fact is that we would gladly move out of the way if we had our own lanes. People do not understand this and it burns me up.

Around mid-January the first ride of the semester was held. It was cold and gray out—two reasons we did not have a big turn out. We still had a small group of dedicated riders, of which I was a part. We meet at Denny Chimes and started with our usual lap around the quad, then headed downtown.

It is common to have a few obscenities yelled at us as we delay traffic; but this ride was a quiet one and we moved quickly through town. The group made the final right-hander onto University as we began the final stretch back to Denny Chimes.

Everyone was making small talk and having a good time when;

all of the sudden, a city bus, number 620 to be exact, pulled up next to us and opened the doors. The driver leaned forward onto the steering wheel and began cursing at us. She yelled "Get yo stupid a--s out of the middle of the road!" and drove off.

We all kept riding with our jaws hanging open. I cannot believe a city worker, especially one working for the public transit system, had the nerve to call us out like that. That really burns me up when you're out there trying to make a little difference and someone who you think is on your team goes and does something like that.

City workers and mass-transiters like myself should be on the same team and for her to act that way is beyond my comprehension.

But this entire ugly incident could have been avoided if we only had bicycle lanes, which is the point we were trying to make in the first place.

Off the Shelf . . .

New works available in the Brooks-Cork Library

By Glen Johnson

In Elizabeth Berg's *Open House*, Samantha decides to readjust to life after divorce by opening her house and taking in boarders. Although she originally sees this as a way to make the mortgage payments, she ends up getting more than she bargained for.

In *Heartwood*, James Lee Burke has defense attorney Billy Bob Holland running on a collision course with the Texas justice system as B.B. takes on the defense of Wilbur Pickett, who has been accused of stealing an expen-

sive heirloom and \$300 K in bonds from Austin magnate Earl Dietrich. Suffice it to say, nobody steals from Earl Dietrich and gets away with it.

With her memoir *Dream Catcher*, Margaret Salinger gives the reader a look at what it was like growing up with her famous recluse of a father, J.D. Salinger. The dust jacket calls it "eloquent, spellbinding and wise, yet at the same time retains the intimacy of a novel."

Fiction—*Black Notice*, by Patricia Daniels Cornwell; *Tell Me Your Dreams*, by Sidney Sheldon.

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Future Issues

This is the second Courier of the year. We will publish twice each month in February, March, April, September, October and November. One per month is set for May, June, July, August, December and January, 2002. Let us know what you would like to know about Shelton by calling the publisher at 391-2278 or the Courier editorial office at 391-2406.

"Keep Looking Up!"

By Dr. Lee Albritton



Taurus — the Bull!

February is an excellent month to locate and enjoy one of winter's most familiar constellation—Taurus, the Bull. The stars that make-up Taurus are shaped like a perfect letter "V" and will be found almost directly over head in the night time sky a couple of hours after sunset.

Taurus is one of the 12 constellations that the ecliptic plane runs through, and we refer to these constellations as the zodiac. The ecliptic is the plane where the plan-

ets orbit the sun; therefore, the planets will be located in one of these constellations as they revolve around the Sun.

Both Jupiter and Saturn are now located in Taurus! To find Taurus, simply locate the very bright Jupiter overhead and the slightly dimmer Saturn below Jupiter, and one has found the Bull. Beside Jupiter is the letter "V" that makes the head of the Bull; and by drawing a line through each side of the "V," one will locate two bright stars that

make the horns of the Bull. The brightest star in the "V" is a reddish star named Aldebaran and is the Bull's red eye! Opposite Jupiter from the "V" is an open star cluster composed of seven bright stars and is commonly called the "Seven Sisters" or officially known as the Pleiades!

Keep looking up on our beautiful winter nights and enjoy our very own Bull—Taurus—but be sure to keep your distance from this red eyed creature!

Shelton State
Courier

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The *Shelton State Courier* is a "campus newspaper" written and produced with the help of students.

Among other functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student expression and all students are

urged to participate with submissions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic freedom in working with the students in the production of this paper:

"The college seeks to provide an atmosphere conducive to open and honest intellectual inquiry in any college forum which is appropriate for dialogue and student participation. The students should feel free to exercise the right to dissent within limits of decorum and good taste."

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.

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Cast List

And they Dance Real Slow in Jackson

Elizabeth	Jessica Stomps
Beth	Amanda Sullivan
Ben	Russel Frost
1st Man	Jason Williams
2nd Man	Josh McCurnin
1st Woman	Stephanie Harris
2nd Woman	Janet Hernandez
1st Ensemble Male (Skeeter)	Herb Robertson
2nd Ensemble Male (Moose)	Michael Sullivan
1st Ensemble Female (Nancy)	Joanna Massey
2nd Ensemble Female (Cindy Sue)	Allison Wilkes

Play cont'd from pg. 1

In *Jackson* by Jim Leonard Jr., Shelton is making a bold leap into controversial and sensitive social issues.

Perhaps, only a school having the honor of being the Alabama Junior College of the Fine Arts would dare such a task. This show is completely different from anything Shelton State has ever done.

"A lot of people aren't really going to know what to expect," said Michael Sullivan about the upcoming production. Sullivan is one of the student cast members. Sullivan directed one of Shelton's previous productions and is planning to direct another later this year.

Theatre major Jessica Stomps landed the lead of Elizabeth. Elizabeth is a young woman with cerebral palsy who is confined to a wheelchair. The play centers on her desire to belong in her community of Jackson, Ind. and that

community's reaction to her.

"The only thing different about her is she can't move her legs, but she can talk and think just like everyone else," Stomps says.

Stomps's supporting cast has their work cut out for them. Directed by theatre instructor Michael Carr, the supporting cast of Stephanie Harris,

Joanna Mathews, Allison Wilkes, Michael Sullivan, and Janet Hernandez all play multiple roles. An actor could be six years old in one scene and 40 years old in the next. These multiple roles will be a true test for this hard-working cast.

The cast balances its lack of experience in this particular arena of theatre with plenty of confidence. Referring to the cast and multiple roles, Stomps says, "There will be no costume changes; it all depends on the acting, and it's a very good cast—so it will all come off really well."

Carr, describing what is expected of the actors, says, "It's all through physicality and vocal inflection, and also their lines do indicate whether they're younger or older. But their work comes in altering their voices and altering the way that they move and so on."

Carr has very strong personal ties to the story. When asked if there was any particular reason he had chosen this play

for the next production he replied, "There was a very specific reason for this particular play. It deals with disability issues. This central character is a girl with cerebral palsy. Basically, the thrust of the play is that she lives in this small, mythical town where she tries to be a part of the community and ultimately is rejected from that community in a lot of different ways, some subtle and some not so subtle."

Carr continued as to why the play hits so close to home. "When I read it I felt that it really demonstrated something that I believe very strongly. My son has cerebral palsy, and so I have been very, very active in advocacy programs and advocacy training over the past couple years. One of the things that is a big part of that training is belonging in a community. One of the big problems for people with disabilities is that they are seen first as being disabled and not as a person. It is a big movement now and it has been for quite a while."

There are many other reasons why Carr picked this play. "The ADA, the American with Disabilities Act, is a movement to remove barriers, so when I saw this play it was something that really appealed to me from a very social point of view. So unlike a lot of the shows that we've done in the past, which are picked primarily for their educational reasons—good characters for actors to play and good material too. This one provides that, but it's definitely got social commentary that I feel strongly about."

The confidence the cast exudes is a direct result of the confidence expressed by their director. Carr says, "That's, for me, the biggest reward to watch students have the confidence and the tools to work with this kind of show. And I think these guys do. I think it's a testament to what this program does and

also to the caliber of students we have. These guys work hard. A lot of people come to this college to go to class. These guys come in at nine o'clock in the morning and they don't go home until eleven at night. All through the day they're in the shops building sets or upstairs doing costumes or in the box office doing something for tickets. So they really commit a lot of time. Not to mention going to other classes too."

The dice have been thrown, and when they stop rolling, many people believe all could win a little something by seeing this play or even by being a part of the remarkable arts program offered at Shelton.

"It really is an eye opener. It deals with a lot of sensitive issues, with inclusion and people with disabilities. It's a really good show. I'm really proud to be a part of it," Sullivan said.

And they Dance Real Slow in Jackson opens on Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Bean-Brown Theatre. It runs through Sunday, Feb. 25. There will be matinees on Wednesday, Feb. 21, and Sunday, Feb. 25. Tickets can be purchased at the box office or by calling 391-2277 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Allison Wilkes and Jessica Stomps rehearse a gut-wrenching scene

Work Keys cont'd from pg. 1

a Work Keys service center, one of the 12 in the state. As a service center, Shelton will be allowed to conduct the testing and score the test on campus.

At Shelton all students in technical programs will be given the Work Keys assessment, tested in such areas as reading for information, applied math, location of information, and applied technology. Each test is scored and the student is assigned a skill level for that skill. Then, working closely with counselors, the student can identify what skill level is needed for a certain job opening or occupation.

Students deficient in one skill area receive targeted instruction in that area, either through text-based booklets or computer-based instruction, "Key Train" software. Parker says, "Through targeted instruction you only take what you need, and both methods of instruction are self study at a pace set by the student."

Also scheduled to begin at Shelton is job profiling where the college corresponds with local business and industry. A company that plans to use Work Keys for hiring and promotion, develops a job profile, setting specific skill levels for specific jobs.

A student's assessment will then be compared to the profile developed by the company. "The unique quality of the job profile," Parker says. "The skill levels are set by the people who do the job and no one else." Just through the assessment, the employer and applicant already know if they have the skills required for the job, eliminating the guesswork on both ends.

After the targeted instruction, students are tested again to determine any improvement. Parker insists, "Work keys is not designed to replace anything. The Work Keys assessment cannot tell you if an applicant will show up on time or if an applicant is honest. The program is designed to take the guesswork out of finding skilled applicants for job openings."

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Shelton marks Black History Month

By Carol Y. Collins-Miller

Black History Month is a time for Americans to reflect on the history and teaching of African American whose contributions are still too little known.

According to the World-Wide-Web, in the 1920's an African American named Carter G. Woodson created and promoted Negro History Week. This period in February was chosen because it included the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. In 1976 the month-long celebration was implemented. In honor of this tradition, Shelton State will host several events during the month of February.

According to Tracy Branch Abbott, student activity coordinator, there will be special ac-

tivities held in the atrium from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. each Monday during the month. There will be displays and memorabilia commemorating the achievements and history of African Americans.

Stickers, pamphlets and other giveaways will be available for everyone. In addition, there will be opportunity to take what is called the "Human Rights Pledge"—affirmation that all people are created equal and should be treated with dignity and respect.

Shelton State also will present a renowned African American folk artist, Jimmy Lee Sudduth. Sudduth, a native of Fayette, will appear in person at Shelton on Sunday, Feb. 18, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Some of his works of art

will be displayed throughout the month of February. The welcoming ceremony and display will be held in the National Bank of Commerce Gallery across the hall from the Bean-Brown Theatre.

Also, during the month of February the first African American Association meeting will be held on Feb. 14, at noon in room 1413. Membership sign up will be conducted in the atrium during the scheduled activities. The contact is Edward Winslow, student counselor.

Organizers of Shelton's BHM program urge all students and faculty to join in the celebration of Black History Month.

Cordell Wynn to be featured BHM speaker

Former Stillman college President Cordell Wynn will be a featured speaker during Black History Month at Shelton. He will be speaking Thursday, Feb. 15 from 11 a.m. to noon in the Recital Hall of the Bean-Brown Theatre.

The recipient of many awards and honors, Wynn is regarded as one of the top administrators in higher education in the United States.

Recently Wynn was named special assistant to the president at Shelton State.



College hosts student leaders in workshop

By Thomas Canterbury

Shelton State hosted representatives from 19 junior, community and technical colleges from around the state for a Student Leaders Workshop entitled Promoting Respect for Others on Feb. 2. The workshop featured all representatives taking The Human Rights Pledge to eliminate all forms of prejudice from their lives as well as group activities on setting reasonable goals for yourself as an individual.

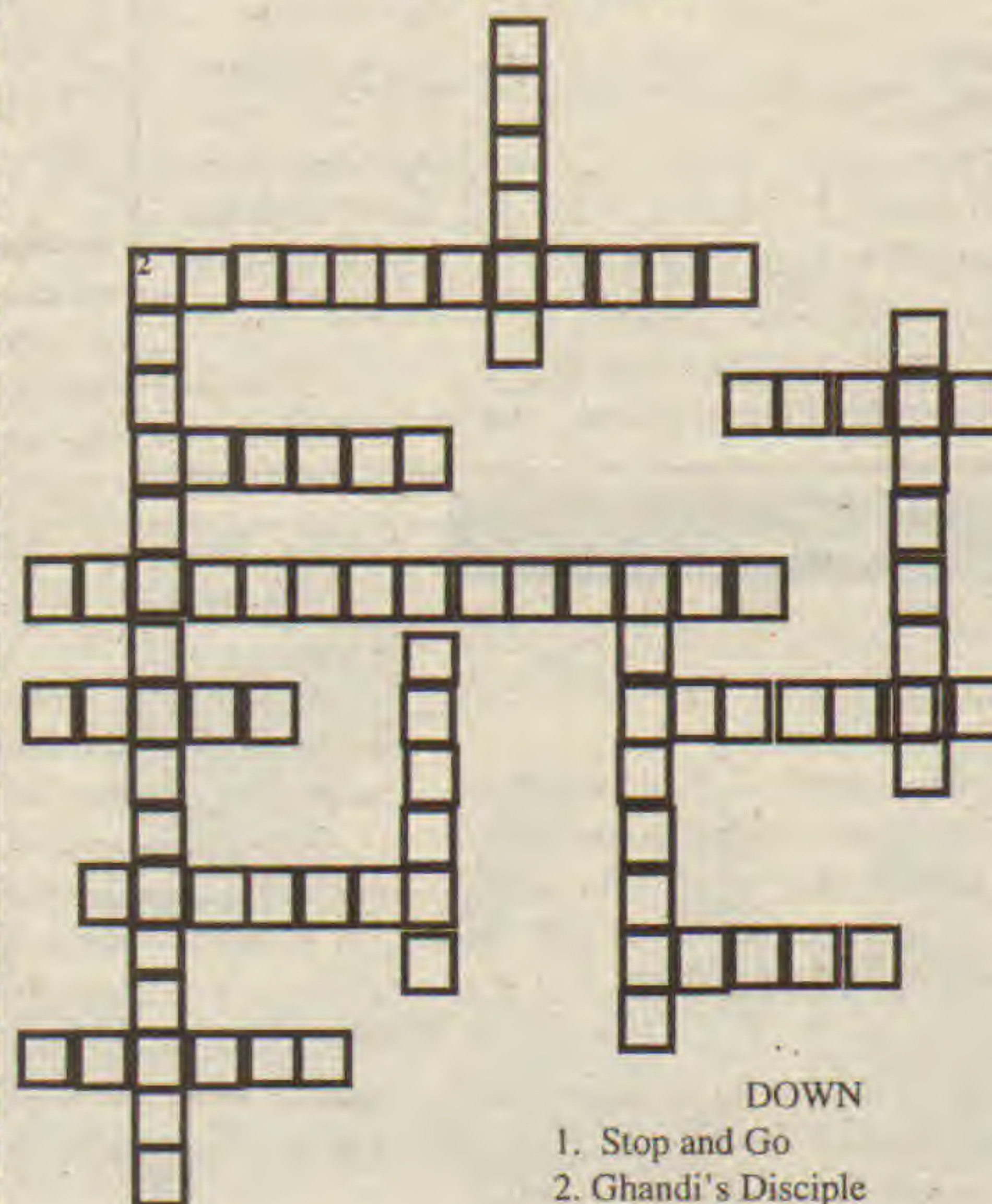
"The Human Rights Pledge is a very noble thing," Dean Humphrey Lee said. "But the most important thing that I hope will come out from this is that these future leaders of our community learn how to set goals for themselves and how to attain those goals."

The workshop also is serving as the beginning of Black History Month at Shelton. "By the end of this month we hope that everyone affiliated with Shelton will have taken this pledge," Lee said.

Shelton was happy to serve as host for this conference. "Once again going back to President Rogers' goal for Shelton to be in the top 25 junior colleges in America and being centrally located in a city with a major university, it's natural for us to be in the leadership role."

Shelton-affiliated speakers were Lee, board of education member Sandra Ray and Shelton student Catherine Manolakis who gave the invocation.

BHM Crossword Puzzle



DOWN

1. Stop and Go
2. Ghandi's Disciple
4. Father Time
8. The Nut Cracker
9. Detroit Red

ACROSS

2. Cosmetic Inventor and Manufacturer
3. "I Never Lost A Passenger..."
5. A Sight For Sore Eyes
6. Not Ready in Mississippi
7. "Ain't I a Woman?"
10. Illuminated the World
11. Founded A Florida College
12. Antibiotic Researcher
13. Slippery When Oiled

Students, test your skill and knowledge! Try to solve the BHM Crossword Puzzle. The clues are descriptions of famous Black scientists, inventors, women, and Civil Rights leaders. The winner will receive a \$250 book voucher. Submit your completed puzzle to Tracy Branch in the Counseling Center. Deadline is 2-23-01.

Shelton hosts innovative Groundhog Day program

Tradition says if the groundhog sees his shadow on Feb. 2, there will be six more weeks of winter weather.

Yet students from Akron High School in Hale County and Holt High School in Tuscaloosa County, shadowing meant much more. Seventy-five students from these high schools shadowed Shelton Employees during the morning to learn more about various jobs, careers and world of work.

College secretaries, faculty members, deans, maintenance staff were shadowed. Shelton President Rick Rogers said, "Shelton hopes that through this event students got a new perspective on their studies."

Groundhog Job Shadow Day was sponsored by America's Promise, the National School-to-Work Opportunities Office, Junior Achievement and the American Society of Association Executives.

Tuition increases for Shelton and other community colleges for the upcoming fall semester

By Carol Collins-Miller

The Alabama College System which includes Shelton State Community College will raise tuition rates this fall to standardize tuition statewide and provide additional income for Alabama's junior, technical, and community colleges.

According to Shelton President Rick Rogers, this is the first time in three years that the college has raised tuition. The last increase was in the fall semester of 1998.

"During times of limited state funding, tuition increases are inevitable," Rogers said. "The funds generated from this new rate will be used to enhance the quality of instruction by purchasing new computers and obtaining other new technology for our students."

Tuition at Shelton the fall will increase from \$48 a semester hour to \$52, for a \$4 increase per semester hour. For a three-hour course at Shelton this fall, students will pay \$156 rather than \$144. Tuition for a full-time student taking 12 semester hours at Shelton this fall will be \$624.

Student Celeste Parker said, "I think it is an excellent idea. This increase could supply the school with better updated equipment to replace what we have that is out of date."

Besides tuition, the college also has maintenance and technology fees. The new maintenance fee is \$4 a semester hour and the new technology fee is also \$4 a semester hour.

Tuition rates for out-of-state students will also rise this fall. Out-of-state tuition will increase from \$96 to \$104 per semester hour. The maintenance and technology fees will increase to \$4 each for semester hour students take. The cost for a three-hour course for a non resident student would increase from \$300 to \$336 during the fall semester.

Tuition costs will not increase until Fall semester, leaving the cost for attending Shelton this summer the same. According to Rogers, scholarships and other forms of financial aid are available at Shelton for students who qualify.



A Multi-Use Facility—On Feb. 3, a 5k run, a mile run, and a mile walk was held at Shelton. Sponsored by Hillcrest High School JROTC and Tuscaloosa Track Club. President Rick Rogers and economics instructor Bill Aldridge were on hand to witness the festivities which included a presentation from the Hillcrest JROTC. Dr. Rogers hopes Shelton will host many more events like this in the future. Awards were given to the top 3 male and female finishers, in five age groups, for each race and also at the end of the running cycle as overall awards.

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Sports

—The Buccaneers are Here to Play—

Buc basketball gearing up for home stretch drive

By Tom Canterbury

The Shelton State men's and women's basketball teams are entering the final full month of regular season play, and both coaches seem to be confident that their teams will be in championship contention at the end.

"I feel that there are five or six teams that have good shots at winning state, and we're certainly one of those," men's head coach Barry Mohun said. "We can't look down the road though; our next game is always our biggest."

The Bucs are currently first in the conference with an overall record of 21-2. Over the past six games, the Bucs went 6-1, with their lone loss at home 96-93 to Beville-Sumton.

The team played three of those games, including the loss, without star center Rodney Bias who was sidelined with an ankle injury.

"You can't control injuries, but we still had a chance to win that game," Mohun said. Bias returned to record a triple-double in his first game back, powering the Bucs to a 100-88 win over Faulkner State.

Although with a less stellar record, women's head coach Madonna Thompson feels that her team is in the same position as

the men. "It's going to come down to three or four teams for state, and we are going to be one of those teams," she said.

The Lady Bucs' overall record is 12-10, more than one game over the .500 mark for the first time this year. The team posted a 5-1 mark over the past five games, including a big 52-43 road victory at rival Beville-Fayette, spoiling their homecoming.

"We have the talent, so if we keep the mindset that we are not going to lose, we won't," Thompson said. "It's all between the ears."

Exciting night hosting Wallace-Selma

On Thursday, Feb. 8, the men's and women's teams had one of their most exciting games of the year as they both took on Wallace-Selma.

The Lady Bucs trailed by double-digits at halftime but stormed back to trail by just two with 10 seconds left when LaTonya Henry rebounded a missed free-throw, passed the ball to Natisha Hardrick, who drove the length of the court, made a lay-up while being fouled. She completed the three-point play, sealing an unlikely 70-69 win.

In men's action, the Bucs and Patriots were tied at 83 with 45 seconds remaining in the game. The Bucs closed the deal with Rodney Bias, Ronald Cooper, and Mike Christion making six straight free throws,

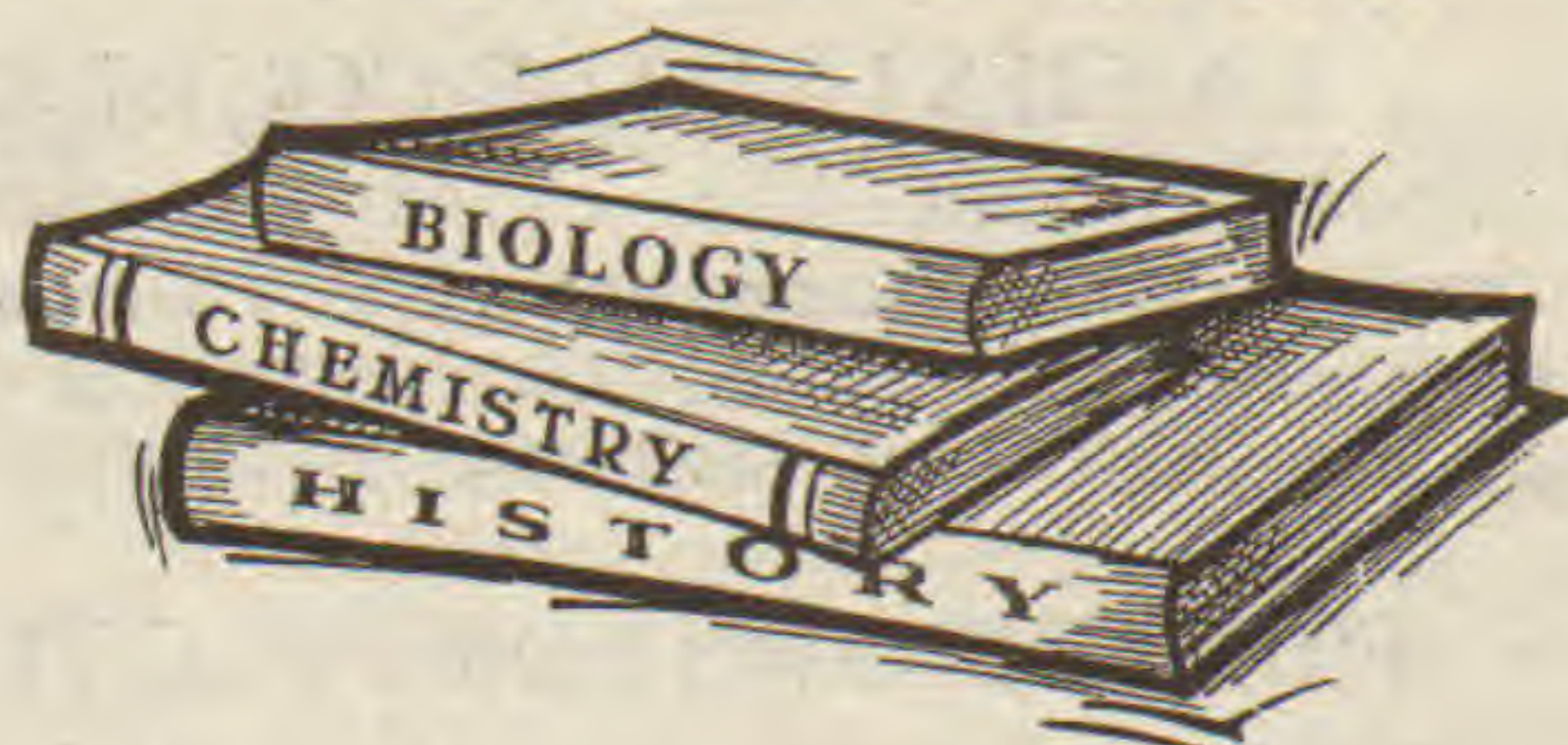
giving Shelton the 89-83 victory.

Both the men and women play home games on Feb. 12 and 15 against Southern Union and Wallace-Hanceville. Women begin at 5:30 and the men tip-off at 7:30.



Bringing out the athlete in everyone Shelly Tidmore works out under the supervision of strength coaches Kareem McNeal and Shelby Robbins and student workers Street Fortenberry and Jeff Comer in the new strength and conditioning room. The room is located across from the Success Center on the second floor. The room will be used by athletes and those students who register for strength classes that the wellness center is offering. "You don't have to be an athlete to take these classes; they are for everyone who wants to advance their fitness level," Wellness Center Director Dr. Milady Murphy said. For more information on these classes, contact Murphy at 391-2994 or 391-2995.

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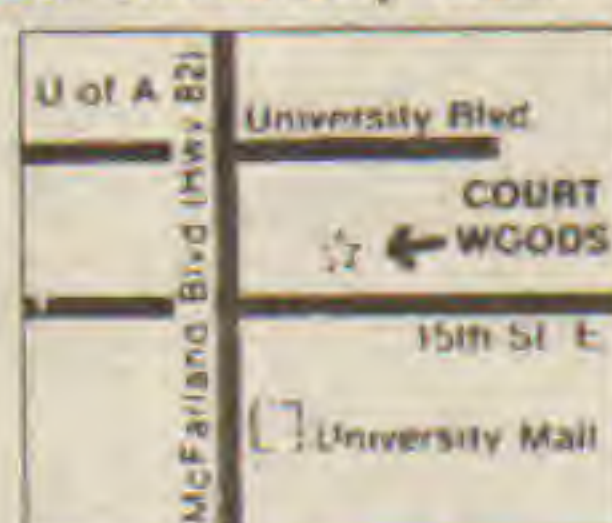
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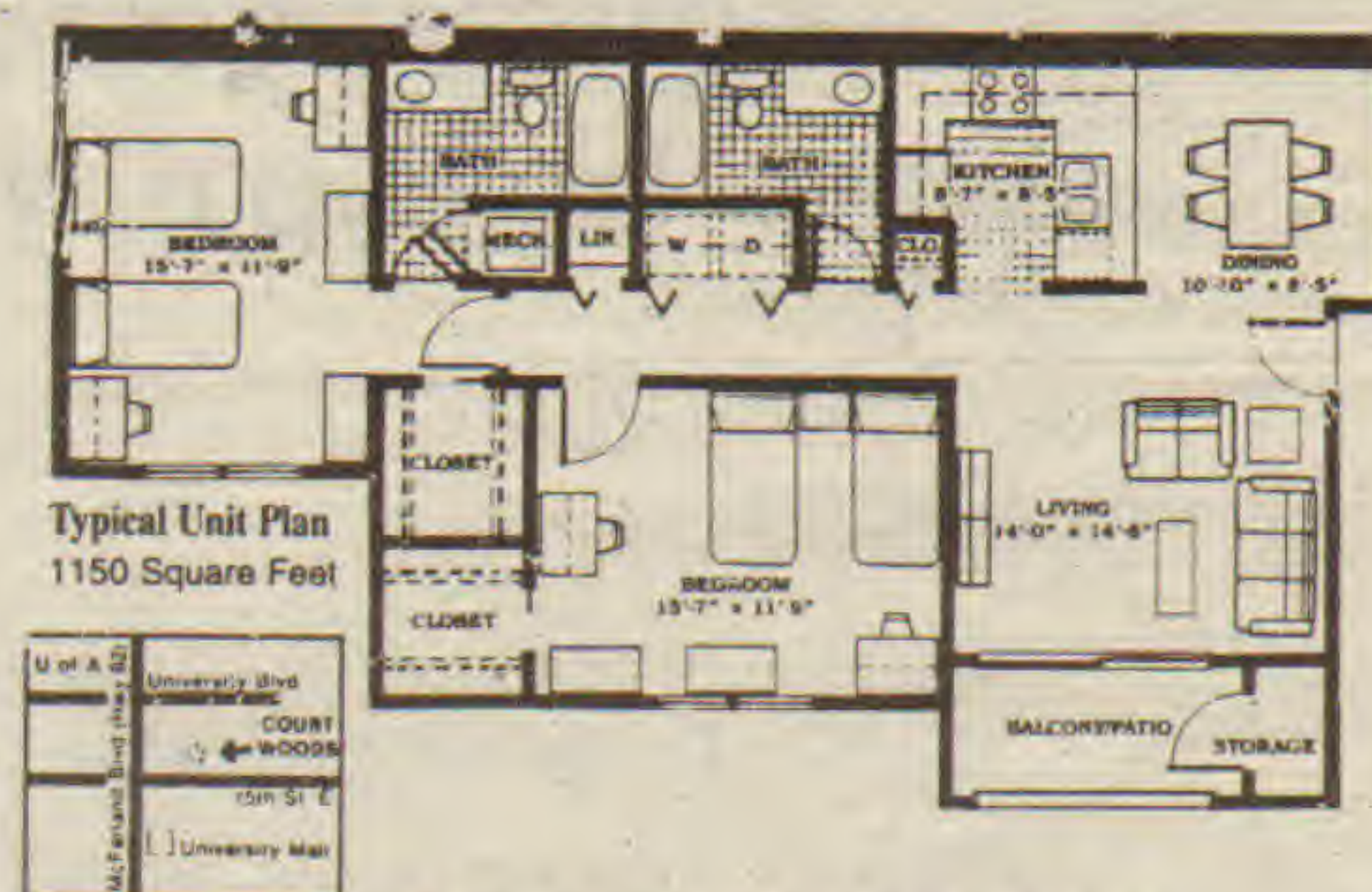


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